

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 400 without my signature.

While I agree with the author that what the state measures in its accountability system sends a powerful message to schools and to the public about the outcomes we value, this bill still needs refinement. I respect the intention to provide schools the incentive to expand access to A-G college admission required courses, and expand course offering in Career Technical Education program. I am open to opportunities to accomplish that goal. However, I must maintain that the Academic Performance Index (API) should continue to be based on objective, reliable, valid and consistent statistical measurements.

Currently, a school's API is based solely on its students' performance on academic achievement tests. This bill, however, would require that, by no later than June 30, 2014, the weight given such tests be reduced to 50 percent with the remaining 50 percent based on high school graduation rates, the percentage of students fulfilling the requirements for admission to public postsecondary institutions, and the percentage of students who graduate prepared for entry-level employment in business or industry.

For these reasons, at this time I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger